

**State of Connecticut
Office of Health Reform & Innovation**

Advancing Health Equity through State Implementation of Health Reform

OUR COMMITMENT

Connecticut is a small state with large contrasts. Although we rank well on insurance coverage and health status measures nationally, there is a great deal of concentrated disparity between our urban and rural areas, racial and ethnic groups, and income brackets.

The **Office of Health Reform & Innovation** is committed to addressing the needs of our state's most vulnerable populations as we work with state agencies and other partners to implement health reform. To facilitate our efforts to advance health equity through implementation of health reform, we have applied for technical assistance from the **National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)**.

MULTIPLE HEALTH EQUITY GOALS

Our proposal includes the following core projects:

- **Health equity training and education for health reform leaders.** Members of the Insurance Exchange Board and Health Care Cabinet, and other policymakers, must understand significant health equity issues, strategies to address disparities, and the data available to measure our effectiveness.
- **Maximize participation of urban, low-income, and minority populations in Medicaid and the Insurance Exchange.** To lay the groundwork for enrollment of newly insured populations in the Insurance Exchange in 2014, Connecticut must ensure that our existing systems are easy to navigate for clients and that people receive the services they are eligible for.
 - Prepare for Insurance Exchange enrollment by focusing now on Medicaid enrollment and retention and improving coordination of eligibility systems between existing state programs.
 - Address the needs of Insurance Exchange enrollees who have experienced barriers to getting coverage and care in the past by selecting Navigators that are trusted by our target populations and establishing a clear role for the Consumer Assistance Program.
- **Improve Medicaid clients' abilities to access the right services, in the right place, at the right time.** Our transition to a person-centered system of service delivery must include models that address the needs of populations new to health insurance and facing unique sets of access issues.

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

The Office of Health Reform & Innovation developed this proposal in collaboration with the Connecticut Departments of Social Services and Public Health, the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity, and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate.

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